



- 1.0 Location:** Council Office Building, 7th Floor Meeting Room, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD
- 2.0 Meeting Purpose:** To engage and educate the public in the development of a comprehensive watershed restoration implementation strategy (strategy) to meet the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater permit requirements.
- 3.0 Participants:** Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (MCDEP) sponsored the meeting with technical presentations from MCDEP and Biohabitats, Inc. Biohabitats, Inc. is the lead firm of the consultant team working on strategy development. The meeting was facilitated by Resolve and Capuco Consulting Services. The audience included concerned citizens, members from watershed organizations and other non-governmental organizations, as well as staff from MCDEP, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, City of Rockville Department of Public Works, City of Gaithersburg, Takoma Park, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Prince Georges County, and US Forest Service.
- 4.0 Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 with a welcoming from Meo Curtis, Project Manager, who introduced other MCDEP staff present at the meeting. She presented the meeting agenda and reviewed the purpose for the meeting. The agenda called for a technical presentation from Biohabitats followed by a question and answer period.
- 5.0 Overview of Montgomery County Stormwater Programs and Review Activities for New Permit:** Meo continued with an introductory slideshow explaining the MS4 permit, the need for restoration and stormwater management in the County, and details behind the MS4 permit requirements. She highlighted how Montgomery County meets water resource goals and storm water programs. She also introduced the new and enhanced requirements in the MS4 permit that must be addressed through the Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy.
- 6.0 Current Conditions in Montgomery County and Framework to Address Next Steps:** Ted Brown and Nick Lindow from Biohabitats then presented the project scope, consultant team, and a technical presentation. The purpose of the presentation was to introduce the current stream resource conditions in the County's eight major watersheds, discuss problems from local experiences and knowledge, discuss approaches to improve the watersheds, present different approaches that could be implemented, and stimulate public involvement in developing and implementing plans. Intermittently throughout the briefing and following the briefing, stakeholders presented a variety of comments, many in the form of questions. MCDEP and the consultant team offered suggestions on how these comments may be addressed in the implementation plan. The questions and comments are listed below:



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS BY MAJOR WATERSHED

Anacostia Watershed (note: one-third of the audience identified themselves as residents in the Anacostia)

Q: Date of information on the stream health maps “white areas” – suspect they will really be red once studied (Note: 'white areas' are watersheds without ratings as shown in the Biohabitats presentation)

Q: Isn't the percent of impervious surface cap for Paint Branch Special Protection Area (SPA) now to be 8%? (Note: the presentation showed the original impervious cap of 10%)

Prompt A: What do you treasure?

- Stream networks in the Anacostia are the most prominent natural feature – particularly within the riparian zone
- Trail network – especially in upper paint branch
- Bike trail network (planned trails)
 - It seems to be growing

Prompt B: Impacts?

- North West (NW) Branch near Leisure World, Bel Pre, and Rossmore has noticeably poor water quality
 - Seems ripe for action due to political activism in that area
- Both quality and quantity of water should be the focus
- Inter-County Connector (ICC) concerns

Prompt C: What other practices do you want to see?

- More “green streets”
- Reforestation
- Source control and Low Impact Development(LID)
- Be careful with broad adoption of over 400 proposed projects in Army Corps of Engineer's (ACOE) Anacostia plan
- Pursue financial contribution from Department of Transportation (DOT), which was essential in Portland, Oregon plan
- Restrict/enforce regulations for developers, especially in SPA's

Rock Creek

- Severe erosion problems in Watts Branch near Rockville.
- MCDEP and City of Rockville have a long and close partnership in coordination for restoration

Cabin John (no comments)



Muddy Branch and Watts

- How many best management practices (BMPs)?
- Why no stream restorations?
 - The restoration strategy of the county has been to begin with most urban impacted areas (Anacostia & Rock Creek) and move on from there into Cabin John, Watts Branch, and Muddy Branch
- How are Gaithersburg and Takoma Park and Park Lands treated?

Great Seneca

- Special Protection Area Questions

Patuxent (no comments)

Lower Monocacy (no comments)

7.0 Public Comment: The meeting was then turned over to Juliana Birkhoff from Resolve for a facilitated discussion with questions and comments from the audience. The discussion lasted approximately 35 minutes, followed by a brief summary and next steps from Meo Curtis. The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. A list of the general questions and comments is included below:

- What is the implementation plan budget?
- How does MoCo help Rockville?
- How do I get restoration money from partners? Specifically to address local erosion problems in streams that may cross jurisdictional boundaries.
- How will inter-jurisdictional partnerships work together to make implementation plan comprehensive?
- How will we protect areas that are currently in good condition?
 - Quantitative nature of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) will necessitate maximization of treatment for all new construction
 - - Water Resources Element (WRE) will also protect waters it regulates water supply, waste water treatment, and stormwater from development. Related to House Bill 1141, available from department of planning website.
- What role will enforcement play in behavioral change?
- What role will incentives play in behavioral change?
- How will implementation accommodate the proof from the Bay restoration that volunteerism does not work as the sole approach? There needs to be more.
- Can the focus be on source reduction rather than restoration?
- Can we mimic other's successes? Look at progressive communities such as Portland, OR- what have they done that we are not?



- How can the NGOs work with the county on source reduction?
- LID is better fiscally than storm water (SW) retrofits. Concentrate on source control.
- Financial participation of transit departments is needed – it is used in other jurisdictions
- Can the public have more participation in stream restoration design? Witness to previously blown out restoration practices in Glenmont. Need to use more natural approaches, less rip rap. Include local public and land owners in alternatives process.
- Can the plan include funding for inspection and enforcement and stronger penalties? Need to get better policing of construction and development, stop work orders and more substantial penalties. Also need to include incentives for good behavior.
- Can it incorporate better coordination between environmental protection and stormwater permitting?
- What are we restoring to? Need to coordinate stream restoration projects with upland restoration projects, protect stream banks, and control sources of runoff before streams.
- Can we categorize and quantify the benefits of healthy streams and rivers to help residents place a value on healthy streams and rivers? Concentrate on Benefits, rather than Values.
- Can we call for a student conservation corps, volunteer training sessions to teach restoration practices, and high school community service hours? Pay students and hold workshops to teach restoration.
- Can we find correlations between the age of the system and watershed degradation and use that information to anticipate degradation and prioritize behavior change activities? Multivariate statistical analysis may be used to drill down into causes and help prioritize.
- Are there lessons to be learned from recycling programs to change watershed behaviors?
- Can we produce and distribute sub-watershed report card in easy language to help people see and touch their watershed as a motivator -- seems speaker was requesting MWEE at a sub-shed level. Current Countywide Stream Protection Strategy provides starting point.
- Can we educate through HOA's and community centers so homeowners take ownership and pride in the streams
- Work at the grass-roots level using incentives such as free recycling bins, mulch, etc.
- Coordinate with and leverage other agencies on coordinated trash removal, especially DOT
- Incorporate NGOs early-on (i.e., Anne Arundel County watershed stewards academy)



- Use existing studies to document real estate value based on proximity to healthy streams and rivers. Relate property values to proximity to trees, water, BMPs.
- Offer corporations hands on opportunities such as adopt a highway in the county (not state which only offers signs for a donation). County has volunteer adopt-a-road program which provides bags, gloves, and trash pickup to volunteers.
- Educate county kids in the county schools
- Use life cycle costing in benefit analysis
- Prioritize street tree replacement and turf to forest conversion on public facilities such as parks, schools, roads, libraries, and senior centers.

Summary of note cards:

- Facilitation suggestions: let facilitator form goals, have ground rules to make sure feedback is helpful, intro too technical for public, don't defend- wastes time
- Silver Spring Resident wants to develop a program to provide community stewardship of watersheds by turning high school community service hours into rain gardens, bioretention, tree plantings, and stream clean-ups. I have an idea on how to sustain and implement the program, but need help w/ start up costs.
- In regards to restoration projects, highlight existing projects and developing projects for public involvement and education purposes. "This rain garden" is coming to your neighborhood. This will bring the projects closer to home and I think make more feasible for households.
- Have a blog, twitter, other social network sites, RSS feeds for communication
- Look at road code - only need side walk & bike trail on one side
- EU banned bulbs (incandescent?), why not Montgomery County. Plastic bags- banned in DC, CA at no cost. Pervious parking lots
- Legislate/demand builders to create below grade, direct feed stormwater retention
- When will plumbing codes be changed to allow greywater to be filtered for potable use?



Meeting Participants

Count was approximately 39 people excluding the project team

The final count from the watershed map included:

1st place: Rock Creek – 12

2nd place: Anacostia – 8

3rd place: Lower Potomac Direct - 5

4th place: Seneca Creek – 4

5th Place: Cabin John – 3

6th Place: Lower Monocacy – 1

Total count of 33 pins, plus the attendees from outside the County.

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Montgomery County
Department of Environmental Protection
Montgomery County's Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy
Wednesday November 18th
7:00-8:45 pm
7th floor meeting room
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850

Purpose:

- Learn about Montgomery County's storm water discharge permit;
- Learn how Montgomery County will incorporate new calculations for maximum daily pollutant loads, trash limits, and expanded restoration requirements into programs;
- Learn about project scope and team activities, current conditions in watersheds, comment on and suggest ideas to Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection on watershed conditions;
- Learn about approaches to improve the watersheds, how different programs could be implemented, and suggest how to improve implementation;
- Discuss next steps to develop implementation plans and how to stay involved.

Meeting Agenda:

7:00-7:10 *Please Sign In, Make a Name Tag, Pick Up an Agenda, and Put a Pin On Your Location on the Sub Watershed Map*

Participants

7:10-7:20 **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Welcome from Meo Curtis and

- Participant introductions
- Review meeting purpose
- Review agenda

*Meo Curtis, Senior
Planning Specialist,
Montgomery County
Department of
Environmental Protection*

*Ted Brown, Water Resource
Engineer, Biohabitats,*

*Juliana E. Birkhoff, Senior
Mediator, RESOLVE*



7:20-7:30 II. Overview of Montgomery County Stormwater Programs and Review Activities for New Permit *Meo Curtis, MC DEP*

Short Presentation and Facilitated Short Discussion

- Review how Montgomery County meets water resources goals and storm water programs
- How new federal requirements will be implemented into Montgomery County guidance, policies, and programs

7:30-8:00 V. Current Conditions in Montgomery County and Framework to Address Next Steps *Meo Curtis MC DEP*

Presentation and Facilitated Short Discussion

- Intro to team and scope
- Learn about current conditions in Montgomery County's watersheds;
- Suggest missing information and discuss problems from local experiences and knowledge
- Learn about approaches to improve the watersheds;
- Discuss how different approaches could be implemented;
- Discuss need for public input and involvement in developing and implementing plan;
- Suggest how to improve these approaches.

Ted Brown and Nick Lindow, Biohabitats

Carrie Capuco, Principal Capuco Consulting

8:00-8:35 Public Input

Facilitated Discussion

- Discuss questions and comments from audience
- Note questions which can't be answered to post response on project web site in future

RESOLVE

Participants

8:35-8:45 VII. Summary and Next Steps

Meo Curtis, MC DEP

Ted Brown, Biohabitats,

Juliana E. Birkhoff,

RESOLVE

8:45 pm Adjourn